

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DRC-01 /031 W

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R 181220Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO CTC SEVEN FIVE

INFO COMSEVENTHFLT

CNO WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

USS CHICAGO

USCINCUSNAVEUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

RUEHCXSECSTATE WASHDC 4677

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0582

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MP

SUBJECT: USS CHICAGO VISIT TO PORT LOUIS

REF: PORT LOUIS 0517

1. WE DISCOVERED TODAY THAT THERE WILL BE A BIT OF A NAVAL TRAFFIC JAM HERE MID-AUGUST, I.E.,

(A) HMS ARIADNE (DE) - AUGUST 8-14,

(B) FRENCH NAVY VESSELS LA CHARENTE (AO) WITH REAR ADMIRAL SCHWEITZER EMBARKED AND DUQUESNE (GMD) - AUGUST 12-16,

(C) HMS FIFE (GMD) WITH REAR ADMIRAL CLAYTON EMBARKED, PLUS HMS ARGONAUT (DE) AND HMS LONDONDERRY (DE) - AUGUST 16-21.

2. UK HIGH COMMISSIONER BRIND TOLD ME TODAY THAT IT WOULD BE MOST AWKWARD TO SHIFT VISIT OF THREE RN SHIPS AUGUST 16-21 BECAUSE RN HAD ALREADY DELAYED THEIR ARRIVAL HERE TO AVOID OVERLAPPING WITH FRENCH SHIPS (1B ABOVE).

3. WE INFORMED BY MAURITIAN PORT AUTHORITIES THAT CHICAGO CAN BE CONFIDENTIAL

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BERTHED AT 400 FOOT LONG WEST QUAY IF BUOY PLACED TO SEAWARD TO

TAKE AFTER LINES WHILE FIFE, ARGONAUT AND LONDONDERRY CAN BE ACCOMMODATED AT QUAY D. ALTERNATIVE FOR CHICAGO WOULD BE AT BUOYS IN HARBOR. WE BELIEVE ALL LOCAL LOGISTIC REQUIREMENTS FOR CHICAGO CAN BE ACCOMMODATED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THREE RN SHIPS.

4. MAIN PROBLEMS WE SEE AT THIS STAGE ARE:

- A) DILUTING OF PUBLIC RELATIONS IMPACT OF CHICAGO VISIT BY COMING AT SAME TIME AS RN VISIT,
- B) NEAR DUPLICATION WITH BRITS OF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR ADMIRAL WATKINS AND CHICAGO SENIOR OFFICERS IN CONTEXT LIMITED NUMBER OF APPROPRIATE MAURITIAN GUESTS AND HOSTS,
- C) POSSIBLY OVERWHELMING IMPACT OF AROUND 1,000 US NAVAL PERSONNEL AND 1,000 UK NAVAL PERSONNEL IN SMALL TOWN OF PORT LOUIS AT SAME TIME.

5. NATURALLY WE WANT TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO MAKE CHICAGO VISIT AS SMOOTH AND SUCCESSFUL AS POSSIBLE FOR ALL CONCERNED. IS THERE ANY FLEXIBILITY IN TIMING OF CHICAGO VISIT HERE? IF SO, HOW MUCH?
MANHARD

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NNN

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